

**IDENTIFYING DIFFERENCES IN THE LEVEL OF  
AGGRESSION ACCORDING TO THE BIOLOGICAL  
GENRE OF THE SUBJECTS  
IN THE PENITENTIARY ENVIRONMENT**

R.M.Chiş

**Roxana Mariana CHIS**

Department of Psychology,  
University West From Timisoara

**Abstract:** *Objective.* The purpose of this research is to study the existence of differences in the level of aggression according to the biological genre of the subjects in the penitentiary environment.

*Participants and design.* The subjects of this work are 60. The selection criterion of the research group being the biological genre of the subjects. Because it is a comparative study between women and men, they are divided into 2 groups (each group having 30 subjects). The subjects on which the questionnaire was applied are persons deprived of their liberty, detainees at the Arad Penitentiary of Maximum Security, both the penitentiary of men and for women. The delinquents were jailed for crimes such as theft, rape, murder. The Buss & Perry aggressiveness questionnaire was used. The questionnaire was applied once for each subject. The trial was applied collectively, the maximum number of participants was 10. Each subject had a questionnaire. It was first explained the purpose and the objectives of this scientific work, then it was the training for completing the questionnaire.

*Results.* As a result of the obtained results there are significant differences in the level aggressiveness between the biological genre of the subjects.

*Conclusion.* Men have achieved higher rates compared to women at the level of aggression.

**Key words:** aggression, biological genre, penitentiary, violence, aggressive behavior, a person deprived of liberty.

## **Introduction**

This paper aims to demonstrate that there are differences in the level of aggression according to the biological genre of the subjects in the penitentiary environment.

The motivation for choosing this theme is based on the observation that in prisons a high number of acts of violence or violence are committed, against the staff and the other detainees and against their own person. Because the specialized literature in our country is poorer in this respect, and the large-scale studies in this field are missing or are at an early stage, are applied locally but also involving a small number of detainees, so I considered that research was necessary to identify the differences in aggression according to the biological genre of the subjects in the penitentiary environment.

## **Methodology of research**

### *a. The sample.*

The subjects of this work are 60. The selection criterion of the research group is the biological genre of the subjects. Because it is a comparative study between women and men, they are divided into 2 groups (each group having 30 subjects). The subjects on which questionnaires were applied are persons deprived of their liberty, who are detained at the Arad Penitentiary of Maximum Security, both men's and women's penitentiaries. The delinquents were jailed for crimes such as theft, rape, murder.

### *b. Working procedure*

The way subjects were tested normally, without incidents. I worked in the two penitentiaries in one of the special club rooms arranged for such events and under close supervision of the penitentiary psychologist and at least two guards. The questionnaire was applied once for each subject. The sample was applied collectively, the maximum number of participants was 10. Each subject had the questionnaire and answer sheet. It was first explained the purpose and objectives of the study, and then the training of the samples. After the misunderstandings were removed, they were asked to complete the questionnaire. I think the sample used did not have a time limit.

### *c. Methods and tools used*

For data collection, the Buss & Perry aggressiveness questionnaire was used.

This test was designed by Arnold H. Buss and Mark Perri and measures four aspects of aggression: physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger / anger, and hostility.

The questionnaire consists of 29 items, the first item and 23 are the first

reversed scores. Different descriptions of some moods are given in the questionnaire. There is one of the four variants given: always, often, rarely, never. Total score is the sum of all item scores and varies between 29 and 145. Higher scores reflect more aggressiveness.

**Results and discussions**

The results obtained by the subjects following the application of the aggressiveness questionnaire will be shown in the following tables, table 1 and table 2 respectively.

**Table 1. Differences between women and men at aggression level.**

**Group Statistics**

	Gen	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Aggression	women	30	64.43	13.642	2.491
	men	30	68.03	11.601	2.118

For Table 1, we used the method of averaging aggression between men and women.

In the present case, there is a small difference in the size of the aggressiveness, which is in favor of men. The situation may be due to the fact that men are more prone to such aggressive behavior due to the psychosocial effects of deprivation of liberty. The impact of detention on the individual is dramatically felt through: the drastic limitation of the space of movement, the relations with the roommates; this may result in aggressive behavior

Another explanation can be given by the personality of the individuals in the sample being tested. This is not an unknown, knowing that men are more aggressive than women.

Table 2. Significance of the "T" test according to the level of aggression between women and men

**Independent Samples Test**

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means
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								95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Diff.	Std. Error Diff.	Lower	Upper
<b>Agr.</b>	.021	.884	-1.101	58	.275	-3.600	3.270	-10.145	2.945
			-1.101	56.540	.276	-3.600	3.270	-10.148	2.948

For Table 2, the "T" test method was used. The "T" test is used to assess the statistical significance of differences in the mean of the biological genre and aggression.

As a result of the results obtained in Table 2, we can speak of a statistically significant result in the aggressiveness dimension. Its value is  $t = .884$ , which shows a significant difference in aggression between women and men. Both men and women express their anger and aggression, most of the time, by the same methods, especially when talking to people deprived of their liberty. Although men seem more nervous and aggressive, women may have the same behavior, especially if they are challenged.

Persons in the penitentiary environment resort to verbal violence, physical violence: stabbing, bruising, throwing a victim into various objects; to emotional violence, which is the main factor in controlling and manipulating the other by: verbal attack, threat, intimidation. Persons deprived of liberty take advantage of each other's weaknesses, they end up terrorizing them; because of the massive frustrations, the frequent humiliations and the sense of helplessness, the weaker ones succumb.

Thus, on this dimension it can be seen that men are more aggressive than women in the penitentiary environment. To communicate and live in this new universe, it has to assign a social identity, to differentiate itself from the other. This implies the existence of a reputation. It is known that convicts are known only through convictions, so they try to form a personal identity.

This is also due to the fact that men are fighting for power, for personal purposes. The fact that detainees often appear in detention facilities does not surprise anyone: the tensions of incarcerated life, the regulation of accounts, the misunderstandings with the staff, the non-payment of debts are the most frequent reasons for inciting certain detainees to resort to aggression of others.

Violence in prison is always conditioned by the accumulation of tensions within a group of detainees: non-conformist skills, the presence of

some with mental disorders or inadequacies marked in the penitentiary environment. Taking into account the specificity of the life of detention (frustrations regarding independence and the general human need of affection), violent acts often have the role of affective relief, relief, catarsis (through the feeling of fulfillment and the satisfaction that follows). Small aggressive acts, usually overlooked, should be considered as signals for what is valued by detainees and violated by someone: strength, prestige, age, loyalty, quietness, and sense of security.

### **Conclusions**

As a result of the obtained results there are significant differences in the level of aggression between the biological genre of the subjects. Men gained higher odds than women at the level of aggression.

### **Subsequent directions for action**

Taking into account the exploratory nature of the research, the intention being to take another step in discovering the types, sources and effects of the variables that influence the adaptation and adjustment to the penitentiary environment. The next step could highlight the correlation between aggressiveness and the factors of the pathological quiz S.P.13.

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